



LOUISIANA SENATE

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State Senator Morrell Urges East Baton Rouge Parish School System To Update Policy On Anaphylactic Reactions To Comply With State Law Designed To Protect Health of Children

District 3 State Senator JP Morrell (D-New Orleans) urges the East Baton Rouge Parish School System to update its policy on anaphylactic allergic reaction procedures to accurately reflect state law.

Sen. Morrell's Act 624 of the 2012 Regular Session changed state law to allow auto-injectable epinephrine (EpiPen) administration to students who have no known history of anaphylaxis in an emergency situation. The law is designed to address the growing number of food-related allergies in children, which sometimes go undiagnosed.

"Studies have shown that more and more children are being affected by food-related allergies," said Sen. Morrell. "It is critically important that schools are equipped to deal with situations in which a child's health and well-being is threatened by anaphylaxis regardless of whether the child has been previously diagnosed."

However, in contradiction to state law, the East Baton Rouge Parish School System's policy handbook requires that a parent must notify the school of a student's history of anaphylaxis in order to for them to receive EpiPen administration.

"I am urging the East Baton Rouge Parish School System to update its written policy and to inform parents of the change in accordance with state law," said Sen. Morrell.

An opinion issued by the Louisiana Attorney General's office confirms that the school system's handbook is not in compliance with the law.

According to a study released in 2013 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food allergies among children increased approximately 50 percent between 1997 and 2011 and affects 1 in every 13 children in the U.S.

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